831 x
539 x

Verse 1. ʿAwde climbs high hills to see the route taken by his sweetheart, who prowls or creeps cautiously, *taḏebb*, to the channels in order to meet him without being observed. 2. *Ḳarm* is a poetical form of address, referring here to Ṛusna's father. 4. *Neṭâjel* is the earth with which a stone-covered grave is filled. The hill of Žijâl is 46 kilometers northeast of al-Ǧowf. 5. Ṭawîl al-Felǧ (the High One With Snow) is the name given by the Rwala to the Hermon mountains, which are covered with snow most of the year. Ḥâjel lies about six hundred kilometers southeast of Hermon. Bird and Rwâf are mountains about four hundred kilometers south of the Ḥawrân. 6. Ḥâmi Raṛîf rises beyond Tiberias. *Dannû ar-raḥâjel*, bring hither the female pack camels, is the order of the tent owner when he intends to move. *Meẓâhîr* are the camels when laden with tents, utensils, and litters for the women. *Salaf* are warriors riding one or two kilometers in front of the laden camels. 7. *Enkâf* is the return from a raid without success and without booty. ʿAwde will not desist until Ṛusna becomes his wife. 8. He who tries to drink from a wooden cup, but continues talking all the time, cannot pay attention to what he is doing, so that the cup often inclines to one side and the water is spilt. Then his comrades correct him with the words: "O So and So, the cup is tilted, *al-žedaḥ mutaṣâweṛen*." Likewise one who does wrong also bends, partly because he is ashamed, partly with intent to deceive. Abu Ṯamad makes straight or rebukes such a crooked fellow, *ṣeṛ kill ʿâjel*, and thus prevents injury.

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THE WEDDING

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The wedding, as a rule, takes place immediately after the wooing. In the morning some one—even a slave—kills before the bridegroom's tent a she-camel, as a *ḏbîḥt al-ʿars*, wedding sacrifice. Neither of the betrothed needs to be present. Towards evening a small round tent, *heǧra*, is pitched by the women near by and the bridal bed made there. Among the poorer people a corner of their inhabited tent is partitioned off for the young couple. Two or three of the bridegroom's female relatives go to the bride to bring her towards sunset to the prepared tent. A little later the bridegroom also enters, after which the tent is closed altogether, *ǰeḥaǧǧeren ʿalejh heǧraten*.